



AETC News Clips

Altus AFB, Okla.



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General gives positive, yet sobering address at annual Chamber banquet

*By Michael Bush
managing editor*

ALTUS — Gen. William R. Looney III, Commander of the Air Education and Training Command, was the keynote speaker at Thursday's 98th annual Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Looney said that this was his second visit to Altus and that it "felt like coming home."

Looney continued by saying, "Altus reflects everything that is right with this country and I appreciate the opportunity to share some things with you that I feel are important."

A round of applause was given after Looney said, "Altus has a vision, a great vision, and there is a future here for the military and civilian side both. I feel that

Altus Air Force Base will be here forever."

Looney then began his program by saying that there is a great threat out there to the American way of life and that we need to come to grips with it. "The fact is, we are at war and this will be a long war, and the American people need to realize that the enemy is bent on destroying us — our way of life."

Looney's sobering program included a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the efforts in Iraq, facts about the war and the people of the country.

"You have to know your enemy," he said. "This is a test of wills for them and they have a commitment to a cause." Looney added, "And they don't play by the

rules."

After a sobering presentation, Looney then tied his message up by saying, "This is the greatest nation in the world because of what we value and believe in, and that's what our enemy wants to destroy."

Before closing, Looney said he is happy to be able to share the excitement and enthusiasm that Altus has.

Master of Ceremonies Charles Dobbs then presented Looney with a framed lithograph of "The Vision Seeker," the life-sized bronze statue that is located in the East City Park.

"We thought it appropriate for the Commander of Air Education and Training Command to have a 'Vision Seeker' in his office," Dobbs said.



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Altus Times photo: Ashley Anthony

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Altus Times photos: Ashley Anthony
Keynote speaker for the banquet was Gen. William R. Looney III, Commander, Air Education and Training Command of the U.S. Air Force.



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Above, Gen. Looney shares a photo opportunity with members of the Altus High School Jr. ROTC. At right, a Powerpoint presentation was part of Gen. Looney's program. His presentation included many facts and points about the war in Iraq, the people of the country, as well as points made about the enemy.



AETC News Clips

Keesler AFB, Miss.



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Sun Herald Posted on Mon, Feb. 27, 2006

Stennis Space Center group helps in recovery after crash

By MICHAEL NEWSOM

When two Marine helicopters crashed into each other off the horn of Africa on Feb. 17, and a Long Beach Marine was among the dead, the search and recovery work was aided by Stennis Space Center personnel.

Lt. David Colbert and Ensign Christopher Tuggle from the Fleet Survey Team at Stennis worked in the location efforts following the crash that killed two airmen and eight Marines, including Staff Sgt. Donnie Levens of Long Beach, off the coast of Djibouti, Africa.

The Fleet Survey Team boat's side-scan sonar located the two submerged choppers and the body of one victim, after being out for three hours and crossing 60 nautical miles to scan the choppy Gulf of Aden for the crew.

The fleet survey members were doing maritime hydrographic surveys in the area, but were called to work after airmen from an Air Force Rescue Squadron saw they could help, using their rigid hull inflatable boat and sonar equipment, which is used to locate underwater navigation hazards.

"Getting out there and coming back was pretty rough," Colbert said in a press release.

The seas were as high as eight feet at some points in the mission, according to the release.

"The Fleet Survey Team support to the war fighter transcended hydrographic surveys in this instance," said Cmdr. Todd Monroe, FST commanding officer at Stennis. "We are proud that our team members were able to provide on-scene sonar search capabilities to the Navy and Air Force search and recovery teams during this difficult and regrettable operation."

Colbert said their work was appreciated.

"It was clear the Marines were thankful for our help," Colbert said. "It was somber. It made anything we had to go through or any seas we had to fight worthwhile. I am thankful we had the opportunity to participate, and I'm glad we were able to help."

Air Force: Keesler Air Force Base released its HUMRO numbers last week, and to date, the base has done 434 humanitarian relief missions in South Mississippi since Hurricane Katrina struck. Airmen have passed out more than 122,000 meals ready to eat, and 187,000 pounds of clothes in 40,000 hours of work locally.

Mississippi Press

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Military history: On this day in 1942, the Navy lost its first ever aircraft carrier when Japanese fighter planes sunk the Langley, with some help from U.S. destroyers, according to the History Channel's Web site.

The Langley was christened in 1912 as a coal transport ship, Jupiter, but just after World War I, it was converted to an aircraft carrier, which made it the Navy's first, and also the first electric propelled ship. The electric ship had a top speed of 15 knots.

On the day it went down in the Pacific Ocean, the Langley had requested a fighter plane escort to Java but none could be spared, so only two destroyers were sent. The three-ship caravan came under fire from nine Japanese twin-engine fighters, and took heavy damage.

The crews from the destroyers were able to load the Langley's crew and then sank the ship before the Japanese could capture it.

Of 300 Langley crewman, only 16 died in the fight, but the ship lost all 32 planes on deck.

Mississippi Press

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